

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

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WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR
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THE PUBLIC SPIRITED FAIRCHILD BILL.

Essentially the Fairchild bill is one to develop all the arable land in the Territory, to make every acre tell; to impose fair rentals upon the developed land of the public domain, and to turn the undeveloped and unused small-farm lands into taxable homesteads; to take the usufruct of rentals from developed lands and turn it to the support of schools and sanitation, thus relieving the general tax fund from heavy charges and accumulating more money for the legislature to devote to public works in all the counties. Finally, by developing the raw land through homesteaders, who would be denied land the plantations can make the best use of, and given land instead which they can put to the best use, add large sums outside the rentals to the public revenue.

This measure is statesmanlike. Arguing the question, it is but just to the people to require the planters, whose leases are, many of them, nominal, to pay a fair rental to the government. It is unjust to the planters to take away any of the land they have developed and give it to homesteaders. And it is unjust to the Territory to plant the homesteaders on created values, when, otherwise, they would take the remainder of the public domain, the undeveloped land, and create new values there which, in the end, would add immensely to the tax returns, and make every acre tell. Finally, by means of the Fairchild plan, the support of the schools would be assured and sanitation looked after, without drawing on the tax funds, thus leaving plenty of money in the treasury for public works, and all the other offices of government.

The Planters' Association has considered the Fairchild plan and defeated it by only one vote. Now let us ask why any planter should oppose it? There is but one supposition, for the argument used against that of "keeping faith with the homesteaders," when the latter have not objected, is the sheerest subterfuge. Senator Fairchild probed into the real cause when he said:

We find that there is a large area of government land with water which in the opinion of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is worth from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000. Should this land be given to homesteaders at a portion of its value, the temptation for the plantation interests to acquire it through the homesteaders, upon terms which would induce the homesteaders to sell out their holdings, is so great we believe it would result in the Territory eventually losing all these lands and water, and at a price much below their worth.

To get all the land through dummy homesteaders or homesteaders of a class that would rather have a little money than a large acreage, would be a fine thing privately, from the point of view of high finance, but it would be a mighty poor investment publicly for the Territory. If Hawaii finally parts with her landed capital, taxes will have to be increased to make good the lost rentals, and the planters would fight that. Common prudence should lead Hawaii to continue the rental system on plantation land and make the rentals fair to both sides; and to turn the undeveloped domain into taxable property. Only in that way financial safety lies.

Some men oppose the Fairchild bill because they are ultra conservative and dread change. And the ultra conservative ever sets as dangerous an example as the ultra radical. The latter is like a moth that flies into the fire and is burnt up. The former is like a horse that refuses to leave his burning stable, and is also consumed.

The attitude of the Legislature towards this bill will show whether it is an independent and public-spirited body or a mere dial-pointer moved by wheels within and out of sight.

THE QUINN SUNDAY BILL.

There will be a hearing on the Sunday observance bill tonight. This measure, of which Senator Quinn is sponsor, is one to give some employers the right to work their men every day in the week.

It gives an employer a lawful pretext to deprive the people on his payroll of their day of rest.

The special object is to enable the Honolulu Amusement Company to make its actors and motion-picture men work seven days a week.

The employees protest and they have a right to consideration. Nobody wants to work on Sunday except the man at the till. Like the barbers, who lately got relief, every hired Sunday laborer objects to the practice. If the question is of the greatest good to the greatest number the objectors will carry the day in the Legislature against the proposer.

Again, the Sunday theater would be a step towards the Sunday saloon and the Sunday beer picnic, and all the other forms of boisterous diversion which spoil the day as one of rest for other people.

The Star does not seek an intolerant Sunday. We have one now that leaves the way open for things that are not disorderly. But anything that tends towards the wide open Sunday is disorderly in all its bearings.

They must be using hobby-horses to make those movements on Mexican and Tia Juana.

The Republican leadership in the next House went to an Illinois member who has warmly supported Speaker Cannon.

For the whole month of March in Honolulu were fifteen deaths from Asiatic cholera and twenty-two deaths from tuberculosis. Yet the white plague gets no particular notice from the public, who seem to take this scourge, which the doctors say is preventable, as a matter of course.

Senator Fairchild travels the path where the gubernatorial lightning is most likely to strike.

The people might just as well elect Socialist mayors outright as Republicans of Socialist principles.

The Legislature can hardly afford the time to umpire a school row at Hilo or anywhere else. The Educational Commission was formed to attend to such matters and should be permitted to do it. It is too small business for the Territorial law-makers, especially when so many urgent things are pending.

It was a misprint in the coast files which made General Murray say that 250,000 men would be required to defend these islands. That was overstating the matter by ten to one. General Murray's estimate was 25,000, which is less than half the number of the garrison the Russians

Uncle Walt The Poet Philosopher

Two neighbors had an ancient feud. They handled language vain and rude, and threw dead cats across the fence, and seemed to sidestep common sense. One day they passed from words to blows; one neighbor smote the other's nose, and chunks of rock began to whirl, and soon the air was full of fur. Then I stepped in with kindly smile and bade them cease this work of guile. "Let dogs delight, my friends," I said, "to paw around and raise Old Ned. Let crocodiles and tigers fight, let wasps and anacondas bite, but it is wrong for you galsots to seek the level of the brutes." Then both the scrappers turned on me and soaked me where my vitals be. They blacked my eyes and maimed my shin, and hit my nose and knocked it in; they kicked me roundly in the neck, and when they saw I was a wreck, they went off arm in arm to buy some lemonade, or milk or rye. I still stand up for balmy peace; I know that it's as slick as grease. The White Winged Dove, on land or sea, is all that it's cracked up to be. But after this when neighbors fight I'll let them fuss around all night; and if rebukes by me are thrown, I'll send them in by telephone.

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WALT MASON.

had to defend Fort Arthur. When the Oahu forts are done we shall doubtless have a force, for peace times, of at least 10,000.

The insular possessions, including Hawaii, would be worth more to American trade than they are, if the restrictions on Chinese labor were taken off. Let the mainland enjoy its labor unions if they like them, but give insular America a chance to grow in its own way. And that way, for the large farmer or the small one, requires labor that is cheap and easily contented.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

SUPERVISOR KRUGER—The health committee of the board of supervisors has been looking into twil conditions. We found that they are as good as could be expected.

E. M. WATSON—Sheriff Jarrett, or his bondsmen, had better get ready to pay some judgments for damages. Even though he is a Democrat, I shall have to sue him.

EDMUND NORRIS—Of course it is an honor to be a member of the Order of Jailbirds of '95—and the members all have a vivid recollection of the price they paid for becoming eligible.

JOHN A. HUGHES—The position W. O. Smith took, and he secretary of the Planters' Association, on the Fairchild land proposition, was greatly to his credit.

WILHELM KELLE—When I was sixteen years old I worked on a Kani plantation, and did everything that a man had to do there, but did not find anything injurious to a white man in the climate.

JOHN SMITH—There is a cotton tree growing in my yard and I notice that the English sparrows are picking the cotton for their nests. If the cotton industry grows here our birds are bound to have the finest nests of any.

JOHN EFFINGER—By reading some of the papers I learn that the effort to hold the Filipinos here is wolly philanthropic. It is chiefly to keep them from losing the delights of Hawaii and getting chilblains up North.

CAPTAIN FRIVOLD—Things are very quiet in Newcastle, N. S. W., just now. Owing to the number of strikes that they had down there they have lost a lot of coal contracts, and now South America and the Philippines get their coal elsewhere.

CHAS. R. FRAZIER—Have you noticed how seldom one sees a centipede nowadays. A few years ago we sometimes used to find them in our shoes in the morning and it was a very common thing to see a centipede crawling across the floor. The scarcity of these pets is one of the sure signs that Honolulu is becoming metropolitan.

ALFRED EAMES—I think many of the Wahiawa farmers are disappointed in not finding the military post as good a customer as they had hoped. Selling produce to the army is an intricate business. There is a lot of red tape to be unwound and the farmer has to wait on various formalities before he can get his pay. It comes in time but he can't always afford to wait for it.

REPRESENTATIVE WATKINS—The Fairchild land plan is a fair one. But I do not think it advisable to ask Congress to amend the Organic Act for our land laws again now—only ten months after we have been given practically the amendments we asked for in a special session of the legislature. I should like to see a campaign of education with a view to placing the proposition before the people in the next campaign.

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WORST TRAGEDY

(Continued from page one.)

burned entirely off, and the charred stump visible, were lifted tenderly from the debris, wrapped in oilcloth and sent by pulleys to the street. Across the street there rested on the sidewalk a hundred pine coffins, into which were placed the bodies. As fast as this was done the coffins were carried away in any kind of a vehicle that could be pressed into service to the morgue at Bellevue hospital, and to the Charities Morgue, opened for the first time since the Slocum horror.

Students Save Factory Girls.
On the tenth floor of the building adjoining the burning structure is the law department of the New York University. Here twenty odd students were listening to a lecture by Frank H. Sommer, former sheriff of Essex county, N. J. He saw the smoke and saw the girls trapped on the roof. He led his class to the roof of the university quarters, where they found two ladders. The boys seized these bore them down two flights to the roof of an intervening building, swarmed out of the windows and raised them to the roof of the burning structure. Forty girls were brought down to safety.

Statement of the Fire Chief.
City officials announced that the usual investigation which follows such a disaster would be started at once.

Said Fire Chief Croker: "This calamity is just what I have been predicting. There are no fire escapes on this building. I have been agitating that fire escapes be put on buildings just such as this. This large loss of life is due to this neglect."

AT THE THEATERS

Savoy.
Hilda Carle, the statuesque beauty, lived up to all the praise of her advance agent, when she made her first appearance at the Savoy theater last evening. She made an instant hit. She not only sings her songs but acts

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them, and acts them well. Her voice is melodious and with the added charm of beautiful costumes she is a welcome addition to the Savoy program. She is tall and willowy and her stage presence is good. Hilda, the tramp jangler, turned up as a real hero for his weekly change and made much of his little feats of juggling, which are comedy stunts throughout.

Empire.
Tiny in size, but a great attraction, Princess Susana the midget is still the center of attention at the Empire theater. Never before has such a tiny atom of humanity piroquetted upon the local stage and she continues to draw well. Her tight-wire act is clever and well done. As a matinee attraction the princess is one of the best who has appeared at the Empire. Whitler and Crosson last evening presented new songs which were well received.

Bijou.
The "Danza Valenciana," the Spanish dance as executed by the famous Hidalgo at the Bijou last evening, was even a greater success than the "Merry Widow" dance given during their first week. They received an ovation from the house which was packed to the doors. The new dance is difficult but extremely fascinating, giving liberal play to the use of castanets and the tamborine.

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